

have been permanently closed to all vehicular traffic by the State after December 31, 1967, and prior to December 31, 1970, because of imminent danger of collapse due to structural deficiencies or physical deterioration.

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-495 permitted the use of the emergency fund for repair or construction caused by other than natural catastrophes.

1966—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 89-574, §9(c), raised from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 the upper limit on allowable annual appropriations to establish and replenish the fund, provided that, if, in any fiscal year the total of all expenditures under this section is less than \$50,000,000, the unexpended balance of such amount shall remain available for expenditure during the next two succeeding fiscal years in addition to amount otherwise available, and provided that 60 per centum of the expenditures under this section are authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund and the remaining 40 per centum of such expenditures are authorized to be appropriated only from any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 89-574, §9(b), added parkways, public lands highways, public lands development roads, and trails to the list of types of roads the repair or reconstruction of which may be paid for out of the emergency fund.

1959—Pub. L. 86-342, among other changes, made expenditures from the emergency fund subject to the provisions of section 120 of this title, and permitted the Secretary to expend funds from the emergency fund, either independently or in cooperation with any other branch of the Government, State agency, organization, or person, for the repair or reconstruction of forest highways, forest development roads and trails, park roads and trails, and Indian reservation roads, whether or not such highways, roads, or trails are on any of the Federal-aid highway systems.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-240 applicable only to natural disasters and catastrophic failures occurring after Dec. 18, 1991, see section 1022(c) of Pub. L. 102-240, set out as a note under section 120 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Section 118(a)(2) of Pub. L. 100-17 provided that: "The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to natural disasters and catastrophic failures occurring after December 31, 1985."

Section 118(b)(3) of Pub. L. 100-17 provided that: "The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Apr. 2, 1987]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Section 153(e) of Pub. L. 97-424 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (d) of this section [amending this section] shall apply to natural disasters or catastrophic failures which the Secretary finds eligible for emergency relief subsequent to the date of enactment of this section [Jan. 6, 1983]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Section 27(c) of Pub. L. 90-495 provided that: "The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 120 of this title] shall be applicable to repair or reconstruction with respect to which project agreements have been entered into on or after January 1, 1968."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1966 AMENDMENT

Section 9(d) of Pub. L. 89-574 provided that: "The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect July 1, 1966."

EXPENDITURES MADE PRIOR TO FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1978; APPROPRIATION FROM HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Section 153(b) of Pub. L. 97-424 provided that: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all expendi-

tures made under section 125 of title 23, United States Code, prior to the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, are authorized to have been appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 104, 120, 157 of this title.

§ 126. Diversion

(a) Since it is unfair and unjust to tax motor-vehicle transportation unless the proceeds of such taxation are applied to the construction, improvement, or maintenance of highways, after June 30, 1935, Federal aid for highway construction shall be extended only to those States that use at least the amounts provided by law on June 18, 1934, for such purposes in each State from State motor vehicle registration fees, licenses, gasoline taxes, and other special taxes on motor-vehicle owners and operators of all kinds for the construction, improvement, and maintenance of highways and administrative expenses in connection therewith, including the retirement of bonds for the payment of which such revenues have been pledged, and for no other purposes, under such regulations as the Secretary of Transportation shall promulgate from time to time.

(b) In no case shall the provisions of this section operate to deprive any State of more than one-third of the entire apportionment authorized under this chapter to which that State would be entitled in any fiscal year. The amount of any reduction in a State's apportionment shall be reapportioned in the same manner as any other unexpended balance at the end of the period during which it otherwise would be available in accordance with section 104(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 85-767, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 901; Pub. L. 93-87, title I, §152(3), Aug. 13, 1973, 87 Stat. 276.)

AMENDMENTS

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-87 substituted "Secretary of Transportation" for "Secretary of Commerce".

§ 127. Vehicle weight limitations—Interstate System

(a) IN GENERAL.—No funds shall be apportioned in any fiscal year under section 104(b)(1) of this title to any State which does not permit the use of The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways within its boundaries by vehicles with a weight of twenty thousand pounds carried on any one axle, including enforcement tolerances, or with a tandem axle weight of thirty-four thousand pounds, including enforcement tolerances, or a gross weight of at least eighty thousand pounds for vehicle combinations of five axles or more. However, the maximum gross weight to be allowed by any State for vehicles using The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways shall be twenty thousand pounds carried on one axle, including enforcement tolerances, and a tandem axle weight of thirty-four thousand pounds, including enforcement tolerances and with an overall maximum gross weight, including enforcement tolerances, on a

group of two or more consecutive axles produced by application of the following formula:

$$W=500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

where W equals overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest five hundred pounds, L equals distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N equals number of axles in group under consideration, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles (1) is thirty-six feet or more, or (2) in the case of a motor vehicle hauling any tank trailer, dump trailer, or ocean transport container before September 1, 1989, is 30 feet or more; *Provided*, That such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand pounds, including all enforcement tolerances, except for vehicles using Interstate Route 29 between Sioux City, Iowa, and the border between Iowa and South Dakota or vehicles using Interstate Route 129 between Sioux City, Iowa, and the border between Iowa and Nebraska, and except for those vehicles and loads which cannot be easily dismantled or divided and which have been issued special permits in accordance with applicable State laws, or the corresponding maximum weights permitted for vehicles using the public highways of such State under laws or regulations established by appropriate State authority in effect on July 1, 1956, except in the case of the overall gross weight of any group of two or more consecutive axles on any vehicle (other than a vehicle comprised of a motor vehicle hauling any tank trailer, dump trailer, or ocean transport container on or after September 1, 1989), on the date of enactment of the Federal-Aid Highway Amendments of 1974, whichever is the greater. Any amount which is withheld from apportionment to any State pursuant to the foregoing provisions shall lapse if not released and obligated within the availability period specified in section 118(b)(1)¹ of this title. This section shall not be construed to deny apportionment to any State allowing the operation within such State of any vehicles or combinations thereof, other than vehicles or combinations subject to subsection (d) of this section, which the State determines could be lawfully operated within such State on July 1, 1956, except in the case of the overall gross weight of any group of two or more consecutive axles, on the date of enactment of the Federal-Aid Highway Amendments of 1974. With respect to the State of Hawaii, laws or regulations in effect on February 1, 1960, shall be applicable for the purposes of this section in lieu of those in effect on July 1, 1956. With respect to the State of Michigan, laws or regulations in effect on May 1, 1982, shall be applicable for the purposes of this subsection. With respect to the State of Maryland, laws and regulations in effect on June 1, 1993,

shall be applicable for the purposes of this subsection.

(b) REASONABLE ACCESS.—No State may enact or enforce any law denying reasonable access to motor vehicles subject to this title to and from the Interstate Highway System to terminals and facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

(c) OCEAN TRANSPORT CONTAINER DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term “ocean transport container” has the meaning given the term “freight container” by the International Standards Organization in Series 1, Freight Containers, 3rd Edition (reference number ISO668–1979(E)) as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection.

(d) LONGER COMBINATION VEHICLES.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—

(A) GENERAL CONTINUATION RULE.—A longer combination vehicle may continue to operate only if the longer combination vehicle configuration type was authorized by State officials pursuant to State statute or regulation conforming to this section and in actual lawful operation on a regular or periodic basis (including seasonal operations) on or before June 1, 1991, or pursuant to section 335 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (104 Stat. 2186).

(B) APPLICABILITY OF STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.—All such operations shall continue to be subject to, at the minimum, all State statutes, regulations, limitations and conditions, including, but not limited to, routing-specific and configuration-specific designations and all other restrictions, in force on June 1, 1991; except that subject to such regulations as may be issued by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection, the State may make minor adjustments of a temporary and emergency nature to route designations and vehicle operating restrictions in effect on June 1, 1991, for specific safety purposes and road construction.

(C) WYOMING.—In addition to those vehicles allowed under subparagraph (A), the State of Wyoming may allow the operation of additional vehicle configurations not in actual operation on June 1, 1991, but authorized by State law not later than November 3, 1992, if such vehicle configurations comply with the single axle, tandem axle, and bridge formula limits set forth in subsection (a) and do not exceed 117,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(D) OHIO.—In addition to vehicles which the State of Ohio may continue to allow to be operated under subparagraph (A), such State may allow longer combination vehicles with 3 cargo carrying units of 28½ feet each (not including the truck tractor) not in actual operation on June 1, 1991, to be operated within its boundaries on the 1-mile segment of Ohio State Route 7 which begins at and is south of exit 16 of the Ohio Turnpike.

(E) ALASKA.—In addition to vehicles which the State of Alaska may continue to allow to be operated under subparagraph (A), such State may allow the operation of longer combination vehicles which were not in ac-

¹ See References in Text note below.

tual operation on June 1, 1991, but which were in actual operation prior to July 5, 1991.

(F) IOWA.—In addition to vehicles that the State of Iowa may continue to allow to be operated under subparagraph (A), the State may allow longer combination vehicles that were not in actual operation on June 1, 1991, to be operated on Interstate Route 29 between Sioux City, Iowa, and the border between Iowa and South Dakota or Interstate Route 129 between Sioux City, Iowa, and the border between Iowa and Nebraska.

(2) ADDITIONAL STATE RESTRICTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent any State from further restricting in any manner or prohibiting the operation of longer combination vehicles otherwise authorized under this subsection; except that such restrictions or prohibitions shall be consistent with the requirements of sections 31111–31114 of title 49.

(B) MINOR ADJUSTMENTS.—Any State further restricting or prohibiting the operations of longer combination vehicles or making minor adjustments of a temporary and emergency nature as may be allowed pursuant to regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection, shall, within 30 days, advise the Secretary of such action, and the Secretary shall publish a notice of such action in the Federal Register.

(3) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—

(A) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.—Within 60 days of the date of the enactment of this subsection, each State (i) shall submit to the Secretary for publication in the Federal Register a complete list of (I) all operations of longer combination vehicles being conducted as of June 1, 1991, pursuant to State statutes and regulations; (II) all limitations and conditions, including, but not limited to, routing-specific and configuration-specific designations and all other restrictions, governing the operation of longer combination vehicles otherwise prohibited under this subsection; and (III) such statutes, regulations, limitations, and conditions; and (ii) shall submit to the Secretary copies of such statutes, regulations, limitations, and conditions.

(B) INTERIM LIST.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall publish an interim list in the Federal Register, consisting of all information submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A). The Secretary shall review for accuracy all information submitted by the States pursuant to subparagraph (A) and shall solicit and consider public comment on the accuracy of all such information.

(C) LIMITATION.—No statute or regulation shall be included on the list submitted by a State or published by the Secretary merely on the grounds that it authorized, or could have authorized, by permit or otherwise, the operation of longer combination vehicles, not in actual operation on a regular or periodic basis on or before June 1, 1991.

(D) FINAL LIST.—Except as modified pursuant to paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection, the list shall be published as final in the Federal Register not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection. In publishing the final list, the Secretary shall make any revisions necessary to correct inaccuracies identified under subparagraph (B). After publication of the final list, longer combination vehicles may not operate on the Interstate System except as provided in the list.

(E) REVIEW AND CORRECTION PROCEDURE.—The Secretary, on his or her own motion or upon a request by any person (including a State), shall review the list issued by the Secretary pursuant to subparagraph (D). If the Secretary determines there is cause to believe that a mistake was made in the accuracy of the final list, the Secretary shall commence a proceeding to determine whether the list published pursuant to subparagraph (D) should be corrected. If the Secretary determines that there is a mistake in the accuracy of the list the Secretary shall correct the publication under subparagraph (D) to reflect the determination of the Secretary.

(4) LONGER COMBINATION VEHICLE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term “longer combination vehicle” means any combination of a truck tractor and 2 or more trailers or semitrailers which operates on the Interstate System at a gross vehicle weight greater than 80,000 pounds.

(5) REGULATIONS REGARDING MINOR ADJUSTMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue regulations establishing criteria for the States to follow in making minor adjustments under paragraph (1)(B).

(e) OPERATION OF CERTAIN SPECIALIZED HAULING VEHICLES ON INTERSTATE ROUTE 68.—The single axle, tandem axle, and bridge formula limits set forth in subsection (a) shall not apply to the operation on Interstate Route 68 in Garrett and Allegany Counties, Maryland, of any specialized vehicle equipped with a steering axle and a tridem axle and used for hauling coal, logs, and pulpwood if such vehicle is of a type of vehicle as was operating in such counties on United States Route 40 or 48 for such purpose on August 1, 1991.

(f) OPERATION OF CERTAIN SPECIALIZED HAULING VEHICLES ON CERTAIN WISCONSIN HIGHWAYS.—If the 104-mile portion of Wisconsin State Route 78 and United States Route 51 between Interstate Route 94 near Portage, Wisconsin, and Wisconsin State Route 29 south of Wausau, Wisconsin, is designated as part of the Interstate System under section 139(a), the single axle weight, tandem axle weight, gross vehicle weight, and bridge formula limits set forth in subsection (a) shall not apply to the 104-mile portion with respect to the operation of any vehicle that could legally operate on the 104-mile portion before the date of the enactment of this subsection.

(g) OPERATION OF CERTAIN SPECIALIZED HAULING VEHICLES ON CERTAIN PENNSYLVANIA HIGHWAYS.—If the segment of United States Route

220 between Bedford and Bald Eagle, Pennsylvania, is designated as part of the Interstate System, the single axle weight, tandem axle weight, gross vehicle weight, and bridge formula limits set forth in subsection (a) shall not apply to that segment with respect to the operation of any vehicle which could have legally operated on that segment before the date of the enactment of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 85-767, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 902; Pub. L. 86-624, § 17(e), July 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 416; Pub. L. 93-643, § 106, Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2283; Pub. L. 94-280, title I, § 120, May 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 438; Pub. L. 97-424, title I, § 133, formerly § 133(a), Jan. 6, 1983, 96 Stat. 2123, renumbered § 133, Pub. L. 100-17, title I, § 133(a)(3), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 170; Pub. L. 100-17, title I, § 119, Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 157; Pub. L. 100-202, § 101(l) [title III, § 347(c)], Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1329-358, 1329-388; Pub. L. 101-427, Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 927; Pub. L. 102-240, title I, § 1023(a), (b), (d), Dec. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 1951, 1952, 1954; Pub. L. 103-331, title III, § 332, Sept. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 2493; Pub. L. 103-429, § 3(3), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4377; Pub. L. 104-59, title III, § 312(a)(1), (2), (b), Nov. 28, 1995, 109 Stat. 584; Pub. L. 104-88, title IV, §§ 404, 405(a)(1), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 956.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of Federal-Aid Highway Amendments of 1974, referred to in subsec. (a), means Jan. 4, 1975, the date on which Pub. L. 93-643 was approved.

Section 118(b) of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), was struck out and a new subsec. (b) was added by Pub. L. 102-240, title I, § 1020(a), Dec. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 1948. Provisions formerly contained in subsec. (b)(1) of section 118 appear in subsec. (b)(2).

The date of the enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (c), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 100-17, which was approved Apr. 2, 1987.

Section 335 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(A), is section 335 of Pub. L. 101-516, which is not classified to the Code.

The date of the enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (d)(3)(A), (B), (D), (5), is the date of the enactment of Pub. L. 102-240, which was approved Dec. 18, 1991.

The date of the enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (f), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 104-59, which was approved Nov. 28, 1995.

The date of the enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (g), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 104-88, which was approved Dec. 29, 1995.

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-59, § 312(a)(1), in proviso of second sentence substituted “except for vehicles using Interstate Route 29 between Sioux City, Iowa, and the border between Iowa and South Dakota or vehicles using Interstate Route 129 between Sioux City, Iowa, and the border between Iowa and Nebraska, and except for those” for “except for those”.

Subsec. (d)(1)(F). Pub. L. 104-59, § 312(a)(2), added subpar. (F).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-59, § 312(b), as amended by Pub. L. 104-88, § 405(a)(1), added subsec. (f).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 104-88, § 404, added subsec. (g).

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-331 inserted at end “With respect to the State of Maryland, laws and regulations in effect on June 1, 1993, shall be applicable for the purposes of this subsection.”

Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 103-429 substituted “sections 3111-31114 of title 49” for “sections 411, 412, and

416 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. App. 2311, 2312, and 2316)”.

1991—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-240, § 1023(a), substituted “funds shall be apportioned in any fiscal year under section 104(b)(1) of this title” for “funds authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year under provisions of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 shall be apportioned” in first sentence and inserted “, other than vehicles or combinations subject to subsection (d) of this section,” after “thereof” in fourth sentence.

Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 102-240, § 1023(b), (d), added subsecs. (d) and (e).

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-427 substituted “The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways” for “the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways” in two places.

1987—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-202 substituted “September 1, 1989” for “September 1, 1988” in two places. Pub. L. 100-17, § 119(d)(1), inserted heading.

Pub. L. 100-17, § 119(a)(1), (2), which directed that second sentence be amended by inserting “(1)” before “is 36 feet or more” and by inserting cl. (2) after such phrase, was executed by making the insertions before and after “is thirty-six feet or more” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 100-17, § 119(a)(3), (b), inserted “on any vehicle (other than a vehicle comprised of a motor vehicle hauling any tank trailer, dump trailer, or ocean transport container on or after September 1, 1988)” after last reference to “consecutive axles” in second sentence and substituted “lapse if not released and obligated within the availability period specified in section 118(b)(1) of this title.” for “lapse.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-17, § 119(d)(2), inserted heading.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 100-17, § 119(c), added subsec. (c). 1983—Pub. L. 97-424 struck out “and width” after “weight” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-424 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and substituted provisions relating to authority to appropriate funds for any fiscal year under the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 with respect to apportionment to any State not permitting the use of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways within its boundaries by vehicles with specified weights, provisions setting forth formula of maximum gross weight to be allowed by any State for vehicles using such Highways, and provisions setting forth further limitations for apportionment, for provisions relating to authority to appropriate funds for any fiscal year under section 108(b) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 with respect to apportionment to any State not permitting the use of the Interstate System within its boundaries by vehicles with specified weights, provisions setting forth formula for determination of overall gross weight, provisions relating to maximum widths permitted for vehicles, and provisions setting forth further limitations for apportionment.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-424 added subsec. (b).

1976—Pub. L. 94-280 authorized a State to permit any bus with a width of 102 inches or less to operate on any lane of twelve feet or more in width on the Interstate System.

1975—Pub. L. 93-643 substituted weight limitations of 20,000 lbs. carried on any one axle, including all enforcement tolerances, for 18,000 lbs. carried on any one axle, of 34,000 lbs. for tandem axle weight, including all enforcement tolerances, for 32,000 lbs. for tandem axle weight, overall gross weight limitation of 80,000, including enforcement tolerances, for overall gross weight of 73,280 lbs. prescribed a formula for determination of overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles, authorized a gross load of 34,000 lbs. each for two consecutive sets of tandem axles having an overall distance of 36 or more feet between such axles, excepted from the new weight limitations cases of overall gross weight of any group of two or more consecutive axles, on Jan. 4, 1975, and inserted “, except in the case of the overall gross weight of any group of two or more consecutive axles, on the date of enactment of the Federal-Aid Highway Amendments of 1974” in third sentence.

1960—Pub. L. 86-624 made the laws or regulation in effect on Feb. 1, 1960, applicable, with respect to the State of Hawaii, for the purposes of this section, in lieu of those in effect on July 1, 1956.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 404 of Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

Section 405(a) of Pub. L. 104-88 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Nov. 28, 1995.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-240 effective Dec. 18, 1991, and applicable to funds authorized to be appropriated or made available after Sept. 30, 1991, and, with certain exceptions, not applicable to funds appropriated or made available on or before Sept. 30, 1991, see section 1100 of Pub. L. 102-240, set out as a note under section 104 of this title.

PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLES

Section 1023(h) of Pub. L. 102-240, as added by Pub. L. 102-388, title III, §341, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1552; amended by Pub. L. 104-59, title III, §326, Nov. 28, 1995, 109 Stat. 592, provided that:

“(1) TEMPORARY EXEMPTION.—The second sentence of section 127 of title 23, United States Code, relating to axle weight limitations for vehicles using the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways, shall not apply, for the period beginning on October 6, 1992, and ending on the date on which Federal-aid highway and transit programs are reauthorized after the date of the enactment of the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 [Nov. 28, 1995], to any vehicle which is regularly and exclusively used as an intrastate public agency transit passenger bus.

“(2) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on the maximum axle weight limitations on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways established under section 127 of title 23, United States Code, or under State laws, as they apply to public transit vehicles. The study shall determine whether or not public transit vehicles should be exempted from the requirements of section 127 or State laws or if such laws should be modified with regard to public transit vehicles. In making such determination, the Secretary shall consider current transit vehicle design standards, the implications of the Americans with Disabilities Act [of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.] and Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.] requirements on such design standards, and the potential impact of revised design standards on transit ridership capacity, operating and replacement costs, air quality concerns, and highway wear and tear.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the result of the study conducted under paragraph (2), together with recommendations.”

TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FOR FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES

Section 1023(e) of Pub. L. 102-240 provided that:

“(1) TEMPORARY EXEMPTION.—The second sentence of section 127 of title 23, United States Code, relating to axle weight limitations and the bridge formula for vehicles using the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, shall not apply, in the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 1991], to any existing vehicle which is used for the purpose of protecting persons and property from fires and other disasters that threaten public safety and which is in actual operation before such date of enactment and to any new vehicle to be used for such purpose while such vehicle is being delivered to a firefighting agency. The Secretary may extend such 2-year period for an additional year.

“(2) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study—

“(A) of State laws regulating the use on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways [now Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways] of vehicles which are used for the purpose of protecting persons and property from fires and other disasters that threaten public safety and which are being delivered to or operated by a firefighting agency; and

“(B) of the issuance of permits by States which exempt such vehicles from the requirements of the second sentence of section 127 of title 23, United States Code.

“(3) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the study under this subsection are to determine whether or not such State laws and such section 127 need to be modified with regard to such vehicles and whether or not a permanent exemption should be made for such vehicles from the requirements of such laws and section 127 or whether or not the bridge formula set forth in such section should be modified as it applies to such vehicles.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 1991], the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (2), together with recommendations.”

STUDY PERTAINING TO TRANSPORTERS OF WATER WELL DRILLING RIGS

Section 1023(g) of Pub. L. 102-240 directed Secretary to conduct a study of State and Federal regulations pertaining to transporters of water well drilling rigs on public highways for the purpose of identifying requirements which place a burden on such transporters without enhancing safety or preservation of public highways, and, not later than 2 years after Dec. 18, 1991, report to Congress on the results of the study, together with any legislative and administrative recommendations.

MOTOR VEHICLE STUDY BY TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD; REPORT

Section 158 of Pub. L. 100-17 directed Secretary, within 6 months after Apr. 2, 1987, to enter into appropriate arrangements with the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the following motor vehicle issues, including an analysis of the impacts of the various positions that have been put forth with respect to each issue and best estimates of effects on pavement, bridges, highway revenue and cost responsibility, and highway safety, and changes in transportation costs and other measures of productivity for various segments of the trucking industry resulting from adoption of each of the positions: (1) elimination of existing, grandfather provisions of 23 U.S.C. 127 which allow higher axle loads and gross vehicle weights than the 20,000-pound single axle load limit, 34,000-pound tandem axle load limit, and 80,000-pound gross vehicle weight limit maximums authorized by Pub. L. 93-643, (2) analysis of alternative methods of determining gross vehicle weight limit and axle loadings for all types of motor carrier vehicles, (3) analysis of the bridge formula contained in 23 U.S.C. 127 in view of current vehicle configurations, pavement and bridge stresses in accord with 1986 design and construction practices, and existing bridges on and off the Interstate System, (4) establishment of nationwide policy regarding the provisions of ‘reasonable access’ to the National Network for combination vehicles established pursuant to Pub. L. 97-424, and (5) recommendation of appropriate treatment for specialized hauling vehicles which do not comply with the existing Federal bridge formula and submit a final report to Secretary and Congress, not later than 30 months after appropriate arrangements were entered into.

STATE-IMPOSED VEHICLE WIDTH LIMITATIONS

Pub. L. 97-369, title III, §321, Dec. 18, 1982, 96 Stat. 1784, related to State-imposed vehicle width limita-

tions, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 98-17, §2, Apr. 5, 1983, 97 Stat. 60. See section 31113 of Title 49, Transportation.

STEERING AXLE STUDY; REPORT TO CONGRESS

Section 210 of Pub. L. 94-280 directed Secretary of Transportation to conduct an investigation into relationship between gross load on front steering axles of truck tractors and safety of operation of vehicle combinations of which such truck tractors are a part, such investigation to be conducted in cooperation with representatives of (A) manufacturers of truck tractors and related equipment, (B) labor, and (C) users of such equipment, and the results of such study to be reported to Congress not later than July 1, 1977.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 141 of this title; title 49 sections 5112, 31112.

§ 128. Public hearings

(a) Any State highway department which submits plans for a Federal-aid highway project involving the by passing of or, going through any city, town, or village, either incorporated or unincorporated, shall certify to the Secretary that it has had public hearings, or has afforded the opportunity for such hearings, and has considered the economic and social effects of such a location, its impact on the environment, and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such urban planning as has been promulgated by the community. Any State highway department which submits plans for an Interstate System project shall certify to the Secretary that it has had public hearings at a convenient location, or has afforded the opportunity for such hearings for the purpose of enabling persons in rural areas through or contiguous to whose property the highway will pass to express any objections they may have to the proposed locations of such highway. Such certification shall be accompanied by a report which indicates the consideration given to the economic, social, environmental and other effects of the plan or highway location or design and various alternatives which were raised during the hearing or which were otherwise considered.

(b) When hearings have been held under subsection (a), the State highway department shall submit a copy of the transcript of said hearings to the Secretary, together with the certification and report.

(Pub. L. 85-767, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 902; Pub. L. 90-495, §24, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 828; Pub. L. 91-605, title I, §135, Dec. 31, 1970, 84 Stat. 1734.)

AMENDMENTS

1970—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 91-605, §135(a), provided for submission of a report by the State highway department involved indicating consideration given to economic, social, environmental, and other effects of the plan or highway location or design plus the various alternatives which were considered.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 91-605, §135(b), inserted reference to report to be submitted by the State highway department together with the certification of public hearings.

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-495 inserted social effect of projects, the impact on environment, and their consistency with the goals and objectives of such urban planning as has been promulgated by the community to the list of factors to be considered by State highway departments in looking over projects involving the by-passing or passing through of municipalities.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-495 effective Aug. 23, 1968, see section 37 of Pub. L. 90-495, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

§ 129. Toll roads, bridges, tunnels, and ferries

(a) BASIC PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR FEDERAL PARTICIPATION.—Notwithstanding section 301 of this title and subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall permit Federal participation in—

(A) initial construction of a toll highway, bridge, or tunnel (other than a highway, bridge, or tunnel on the Interstate System) or approach thereto;

(B) reconstructing, resurfacing, restoring, and rehabilitating a toll highway, bridge, or tunnel (including a toll highway, bridge, or tunnel subject to an agreement entered into under this section or section 119(e) as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) or approach thereto;

(C) reconstruction or replacement of a toll-free bridge or tunnel and conversion of the bridge or tunnel to a toll facility;

(D) reconstruction of a toll-free Federal-aid highway (other than a highway on the Interstate System) and conversion of the highway to a toll facility; and

(E) preliminary studies to determine the feasibility of a toll facility for which Federal participation is authorized under subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D);

on the same basis and in the same manner as in the construction of free highways under this chapter.

(2) OWNERSHIP.—Each highway, bridge, tunnel, or approach thereto constructed under this subsection must—

(A) be publicly owned, or

(B) be privately owned if the public authority having jurisdiction over the highway, bridge, tunnel, or approach has entered into a contract with a private person or persons to design, finance, construct, and operate the facility and the public authority will be responsible for complying with all applicable requirements of this title with respect to the facility.

(3) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF REVENUES.—Before the Secretary may permit Federal participation under this subsection in construction of a highway, bridge, or tunnel located in a State, the public authority (including the State transportation department) having jurisdiction over the highway, bridge, or tunnel must enter into an agreement with the Secretary which provides that all toll revenues received from operation of the toll facility will be used first for debt service, for reasonable return on investment of any private person financing the project, and for the costs necessary for the proper operation and maintenance of the toll facility, including reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation. If the State certifies annually that the tolled facility is being adequately maintained, the State may